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social life. Some of the more important chapter headings are: "Is the Country Girl Happy on the Farm?" "The Inheritance," "The Country Girl's Training," "The Ills of Isolation," "The Solace of Reading," "The Service of Music to the Countryside," "The Play in the Home," "Pageantry as a Community Resource," "The Young Women's Christian Association," "The Camp Fire," "The Country Girl's Score Card."

The author advocates education for social and vocational efficiency rather than the old formal discipline type of education for girls. She says that the great need is courses of study adapted to the immediate needs of women in their work as home-makers. "Such courses are usually found in agricultural colleges. The old-line colleges preserve the ideals of decades ago. They are hopelessly masculinized and professionalized." She makes a strong plea for modern conveniences in the farm home. "The great god, power," she says, "led the woman out of her house and into the factory. It was necessary in order that she should have a chance to learn the rules of the game. Now, her lesson learned, the same great god, power, is quietly but firmly taking her again by the hand and leading her back to her home." The author's central thought running through every chapter is the urgent need of a revival of sociability in rural and village communities. "When a community is really dead," she says, "we may know the fact by the absence of sociability." The whole country problem hinges chiefly upon this social matter; and as the woman is the essential upholder of the community the world over in social affairs, it behooves the young woman in rural life to prepare for these responsibilities if she will ward off from the farm and village communities a deadly and intolerable inaction." The suggestions in chapters on "The Service of Music in the Countryside," "The Play in the Home," and "Pageantry as a Community Resource" will be very helpful to all those who are working at the problem of community building in the country.

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*Backward Children.* By ARTHUR HOLMES. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1915. Pp. 247.

This little book is intended particularly for the layman, and is accordingly written in simple style and without the use of many technical terms. It begins with a brief discussion of standards for measuring

children and then considers various types of backward children. Two general classes are distinguished, the permanently retarded and the temporarily retarded. The former are victims of some deep-seated cause, while the latter are suffering from removable defects. More than one-half of the book is given to a recital of concrete cases of backwardness and the results of treatment, illustrating the effects of adenoids, disease, malnutrition, improper home life, bad companions, injurious neighborhoods, etc., and the methods employed to restore normal conditions.

This inductive study is followed by a chapter on clinical diagnosis, in which such points as oral examination, family history, physical examination, and mental tests are described and outlined. The author here distinguishes nine grades of feeble-mindedness.

The part of the teachers in diagnosing the children is presented, several concrete cases being used to illustrate more clearly. A final chapter deals with the essential qualifications of teachers of backward children and with the equipment necessary for the proper handling of children in the special class or school.

For the parent and the teacher this book vividly portrays the essential facts relating to backwardness and its treatment; for the specialist in feeble-mindedness it attempts nothing new, and, accordingly, accomplishes but little. Nevertheless, it is worth while to popularize information on this subject.

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*Child-Welfare Work in Pennsylvania.* A Co-operative Study of Child-Caring Agencies and Institutions. Edited by WILLIAM H. SLINGERLAND, PH.D.

*A Child-Welfare Symposium.* Twenty-five Special Papers Contributed by Leading Pennsylvanians. Edited by WILLIAM H. SLINGERLAND, PH.D. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1915. Pp. xviii+352; 138. \$2.00.

This book is the outcome of one of the series of social investigations undertaken by the Russell Sage Foundation. The study consists largely of descriptive material detailing the child-welfare work carried on in Pennsylvania by eighty almshouses, fifty-three child-caring agencies, that is, children's aid and humane societies, and two hundred and ten institutions for children. Among the points covered are capacity and